



The Boys and Girls Club of Southwest Alabama and the Southwest Alabama Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new teen center Tuesday afternoon.

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By Arthur  
Editor

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*The Thomasville Times, Page 1, 3/31/11*

## Boys and Girls Club opens new teen center in T'ville

**By Donovan Jackson**

Special to the Times

Creating a positive place for Thomasville teenagers to earn job skills and become model citizens is a goal of state Rep. Thomas E. Jackson, D-Thomasville.

"I'm really happy to see the creation of the Teen Center under the new director, Cedric Williams," Jackson said. "He has a vision and

love for the youth in this area.

The grand opening of the Teen Center was Tuesday March 29, at 656 Highland Circle in Thomasville.

Jackson said the community must show more interest in our 13- to 19-year-olds

"These children and teens are the future of our nation," Jackson said. "We have to prepare them for the tough roads ahead. When the parents are not around, they need somewhere else to go for leadership and inspiration."

Williams said funding for the Teen Center includes \$30,000 from Clarke County Recreation Board and \$35,000

from Boys and Girls Clubs of America. "The actual facility was donated by the city of Thomasville," said Williams, who is also director of the Boys and Girls Club of Thomasville.

Jackson said he helped make contacts to secure grants.

"Not only would a teen center keep our youths off the streets and out of trouble, but they would also be able to enjoy time with their peers outside of an institutional setting, allowing them to work on their social skills,"

Jackson said.

See Center, Page 3



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## Center from 1A

The Teen Center will provide students who attend with training in job skills, dining etiquette, interviewing, resume writing and dressing for success.

Also, students who dropped out of high school will be able to receive GED training at the Teen Center, helping them to receive their diplomas.

"We really need this center for the teenagers," Jackson said. "If our teenagers continue to run the streets, they can end up in prison, which would be paid for by the taxpayers, or they could end up in a cemetery, adding a financial burden to the parents in an already tight economy."

"I want these teenagers to be assets to this great state of Alabama instead of a burden, he said."

Along with the Teen Center, Jackson is working on a bill, HB\_190, that would make a \$250,000 supplemental appropriation from the Alabama Board of Electrical Contractors Fund in the state treasury to the Alabama Board of Electrical Contractors.

"All they're asking is for funds that can be used to enhance their agency," Jackson said.

"Besides the contractors fund, I am excited about the future of the community college programs in this

"Besides the contractors fund, I am excited about the future of the community college programs in this state," he said.

Thank  
you  
for  
reading  
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"We have a lot of new jobs coming into Alabama. Many of these are technologically based. With the help of community colleges, we will be able to utilize them to help provide the extensive training for the technological jobs."

*Troy University Journalism Student Donovan Jackson of Long Island, N.Y., wrote this story as part of a project partly funded by the Alabama Press Association Journalism Foundation.*

with them.

Bentley, who made jobs a priority in his campaign last year, said they are sorely needed in this area. Clarke

## Relay from 1A

For other Relay related events, see our calendar of events starting on Page 7.

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